

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 08054 300958Z

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 CU-04 DRC-01 /054 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1332

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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1. USIS PRESS SOURCES REPORT KOREAN PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION CALLED MEETING NOVEMBER 30, ON ORDERS FROM ROKG, TO ISSUE DECLARATION OPPOSING STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS AND SUPPORT GOVERNMENT. TONGA ILBO PUBLISHER KIM SANG-MAN REPORTEDLY DID NOT ATTEND NBTING, AND CONSEQUENTLY NO DECLARATION WAS ISSUED.
2. IN REACTION TO GOVERNMENT'S ACTION, CHUNGANG ILBO EDITORIAL STAFF HANDED IN RESIGNATIONS TO BECOME EFFECTIVE IF PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION ISSUED STATEMENT AS ORDERED. CHUNGANG ILBO REPORTERS ALSO ARE REPORTED TO HAVE ISSUED STATE EMT THAT THEY WILL NOT WORK IN ORDER TO ATONE FOR THE CRIME OF NOT REPORTING EARLIER STORIES. IN FACT, AFTERNOON CHUNGANG ILBO CONTAINS KNLY WIRE SERVICE STORIES WITH NO LOCAL REPORTING.
3. AFTERNOON PRESS CARRIED THRED POINT DECLARATION BY THE JOURNALISTS (REPORTERS) ASSOCIATION RESOLVING TO OBJECTIVELY REPORT THE FACTS, TO REJECT ANY UNDUE RESTRICTONS, AND REAFFIRMING ADHERANCE TO LIBERAL GUIDELINES OF PRESS WHICH ASSOCIATION HAD RECOMMENDED IN MAY 1971.

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4. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENTS PRESIDENTS OF RADIO AND TV NETWORKS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE HELD MEETING MORNING NOV 30 (TOPIC NOT DISCLOSED) IN HOSPITAL ROOM PRESIDENT TONGYANG BROADCASTING CO. AT MUNHWA BROADCASTING CORPP STAFF HAS DEMANDED RIGHT TO REPORT STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS. CHRISTIAN BROADCASTING SERVICE (CBS) ANNOUNCED NOV 30 THAT IT WILL RESUME VOICE OF AMERICAN BROADCAST DECEMBER 1.

5. COMMENT: OPEN PROTEST AND CHALLENGE TO GOVERNMENT BY NEWSMEN HAS CREATED A MAJOR STIR. REPORTED GOVERNMENT ACTION RE PUBLISHERS APPEARS PARTICULARLY HEAVY-HANDED, GIVEN PRESENT PUBLIC ATTITUDES. UNDERHILL

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